

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Previously Presented) A catheter braid formed from at least two continuous wires woven together, the catheter braid comprising:

a proximal braid section in which each of the continuous wires has a proximal cross-sectional area; and

a distal braid section in which each of the continuous wires has a distal cross-sectional area;

wherein each continuous wire extends through the proximal braid section and through the distal braid section, and for each continuous wire, the distal cross-sectional area of said continuous wire is less than the proximal cross-sectional area of said continuous wire.

2. (Previously Presented) The catheter braid of claim 1, wherein each of the at least two continuous wires has a proximal portion corresponding to the proximal braid section and a distal portion corresponding to the distal braid section.

3-5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The catheter braid of claim 1, wherein the distal cross-sectional area is about one-third less than the proximal cross-sectional area.

7. (Original) The catheter braid of claim 2, wherein the wire has a round cross-sectional area with the proximal portion of the wire having a diameter of about 1.5 millimeters and the distal portion of the wire having a diameter of about 1.0 millimeters.

8. (Original) The catheter braid of claim 1, wherein each of the continuous wires comprises stainless steel.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A catheter having a distal end and a proximal end, the catheter having a distal region proximate the distal end, the catheter comprising:

an inner layer extending from the distal end to the proximal end; and

a reinforcing braid layer disposed over the inner layer, the braid layer formed from at least two continuous wires woven together, the braid layer comprising a proximal braid section in which each of the continuous wires has a proximal cross-sectional area, and a distal braid section in which each of the continuous wires has a distal cross-sectional area;

wherein each continuous wire extends through the proximal braid section and through the distal braid section, and the distal cross-sectional area of each of the continuous wires is less than the proximal cross-sectional area of each of the continuous wires.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The catheter of claim 10, further comprising an outer layer disposed over the reinforcing braid layer.

13-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 10, wherein the distal cross-sectional area is about one-third less than the proximal cross-sectional area.

18. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 10, wherein the wire has a round cross-sectional area with the proximal portion of the wire having a diameter of about 1.5 millimeters and the distal portion of the wire having a diameter of about 1.0 millimeters.

19-25. (Canceled)